

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

[imaging means for obtaining an image;]

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; [and]

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

[selection] means [for selecting image data from said data base which corresponds to the image obtained by said imaging means, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the current position location detected by said location detection means, and said designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means.

5. (Three Times Amended) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

[obtaining an image;]

detecting the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; [and]

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

[selecting image data from said data base which corresponds to the image obtained, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location of the information retrieval apparatus, and designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information]
determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image.

6. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means;

first receiving means for receiving designation information for retrieving additional information corresponding to said obtained image;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

second receiving means for receiving additional information based on the designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

7. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means

reception means for receiving said acquired image information;

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

8. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means

reception means for receiving said acquired image information;

displaying means for displaying said received image after performing a matching process using said obtained image.

9. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means;

receiving said acquired image information;

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

10. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising

image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means;

receiving said acquired image information;

displaying a matching image after performance of the comparing step.

Claims 11-17 (Canceled)